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SUBJECT: THE GAMBIA: G-8 DEMARCHE ON WMD/COUNTER-TERRORISM

¶1. (SBU) On June 14, Ambassador, with Department's concurrence, joined Dakar-based Russian Ambassador Shulgin in making G-8 demarche to Foreign Minister Lamin Kaba Bajo. The purpose of the demarche was to urge the GOTG to fulfill its responsibilities under UNSCR 1540, which calls on States to implement measures to prevent non-state actors -- i.e. terrorists -- from obtaining access to WMD and their means of delivery. We stressed UNSCR 1540's crucial importance in terms of non-proliferation and the global war on terrorism (GWOT) and urged the GOTG to fulfill its obligations under this resolution by submitting the report required of all states on their efforts to implement it. We noted that this report was long overdue, as the original deadline for submission was October 2004, and that UNSCR 16783 of April 2006 called on States which had not yet submitted reports to do so without delay. Pointing to The Gambia's strong record of support for the GWOT, we urged the GOTG to instruct its UN Permrep in New York to work with the Slovak Chair of the 1540 Committee on prompt submission of the report and noted the possibility of technical assistance, if required.

¶2. (SBU) Bajo responded positively, stressing the GOTG's unswerving commitment to the GWOT and indicating concern that the GOTG had yet to submit the report on UNSCR 1540's implementation. He undertook to instruct Gambian Permrep Crispin Grey-Johnson per our request.

STAFFORD